



PTO/SB/21 (08-03)  
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	10/604,512	
	Filing Date	July 28, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Masuhiko Natsuhara	
	Art Unit	(to be assigned)	
	Examiner Name	(to be assigned)	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	21	Attorney Docket Number	39.018-AG

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group
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<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	JUDGE PATENT FIRM
Signature	
Date	September 30, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.	
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

App. No. : 10/604,512 Confirmation No. 1511  
Applicant : Masuhiro NATSUHARA, et al.  
Filed : July 28, 2003  
Tech. Cntr./Art Unit : -  
Examiner : -  
  
Docket No. : 39.018-AG  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The attached document listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A is hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above. A copy of Form PTO/SB/08A accompanies this paper.

**REMARKS**

The presently submitted reference is not in English.

**Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation**  
**Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)**

A concise explanation of the relevance of this reference is incorporated into the specification in the present application at page 2, paragraphs [0005] & [0006].

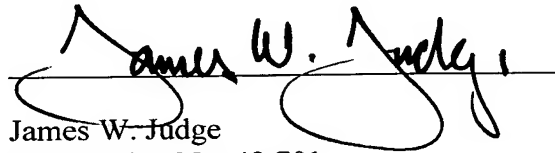
Furthermore, a machine-translated abstract, available through the Japanese Patent Office Web site, is attached to the front of this reference.

App. No. 10/604,512  
IDS Submission

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider this reference, and to indicate so on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

September 30, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Judge", is written over a horizontal line.

James W. Judge  
Registration No. 42,701

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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	10/604,512
		Filing Date	July 28, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Masuhiko Natsuhara
		Art Unit	-
		Examiner Name	-
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	39.018-AG

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP-H11-026192-A	01-29-1999	NGK Insulators Ltd.		✓

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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